

CLAIMS

1. A method of forming a barrier against entry of water into a sub-floor ventilator of a
5 building, which comprises adhesion of a self-adherent sealant material, such as a self-adherent pad, to an external surface of said sub-floor ventilator.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ventilator comprises at least one airbrick within a wall of said building.
- 10 3. A method as claimed in either preceding claim, in which the sealant material is adhered to said external surface including the periphery of the ventilator.
4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the sealant material is adhered
15 to said external surface of the ventilator and to building material immediately surrounding the periphery of the ventilator.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4, in which the building material comprises brickwork and/or mortar immediately adjacent the periphery of the ventilator.
- 20 6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the sealant material incorporates a removeable layer.
7. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the sealant material is flexible
25 or semi-flexible.
8. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the sealant material is formed as a self-adherent pad, or a portion from a roll of material.
- 30 9. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the pad is resiliently pliable.
10. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the sealant material comprises a composite material.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, in which the composite material comprises a laminate of two or more layers.
12. A method as claimed in claim 11, in which one of the layers comprises a release liner
5 and is separable from the other layer or layers.
13. A method as claimed in claim 11 or 12, in which the laminate comprises a backing substrate and an adhesive substrate and optionally a release liner.
- 10 14. A method as claimed in claim 13, in which the backing substrate comprises waterproof plastics film and/or metal foil and/or waterproof fabric material.
- 15 15. A method as claimed in claim 14, in which the waterproof plastics film is selected from film of one or more of the following materials, namely polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene and polyvinylchloride.
16. A method as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein the metal foil comprises aluminium foil optionally laminated to polyethylene or polypropylene film.
- 20 17. A method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 16, in which the waterproof fabric material is selected from polyester spunbonded (non-woven) fabric and polypropylene spunbonded (non-woven) fabric.
- 25 18. A method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 17, in which the adhesive is a rubber based adhesive, comprising butyl-rubber or polyisobutylene rubber or alternatively comprising EPR, SBR, natural rubber or thermoplastic rubbers such as SIS, SBS or SEBS.
- 30 19. A method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 18, in which the adhesive layer comprises rubber together with one or more of the following components, namely: bitumen, organic filler, tackifying resin, rosin esters, mineral filler, polybutene plasticiser, mineral oil plasticiser, processing aids, anti-oxidant and pigment.
20. A method as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 19, in which a release liner is included in the laminate prior to application thereof to the sub-floor ventilator, and which liner is
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comprised of at least one of the following materials, namely: siliconised plastic film such as siliconised low density polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, high density polyethylene or siliconised paper.

5 21. A method of forming a barrier as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the sealant material includes a removeable liner, optionally as defined in claim 20, and which method includes the following steps:

- 10 a) providing a self-adherent pad and release liner composite which is flexible or at least partly flexible,
- b) removing the release liner from the composite so as to expose an adherent surface of the pad,
- c) positioning the pad such that its exposed adherent surface is brought into contact with the exposed external surface of a sub-floor ventilator,
- 15 d) applying the adherent surface of the pad to the said exposed surface of the ventilator and optionally into contact with the periphery of the ventilator and optionally into contact with building material surrounding the periphery of the said ventilator,
- e) applying a pressure to that surface of the pad remote from the said adherent surface to cause the pad to cover in a water-sealing manner the said external surface of the ventilator, and optionally
- 20 f) removing the adhered pad from the ventilator after a flood condition or threatened flood condition, and optionally
- g) removing from the ventilator and/or the periphery of the ventilator and/or building material surrounding the periphery of the ventilator at least some excess adhesive material not removed in step f) above.
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22. A method of forming a barrier as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21 substantially as herein described.

30 23. A method of forming a barrier as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21 substantially as herein exemplified.

24. Use of a laminated self-adherent pad as illustrated herein in a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21.

25. A building having a wall structure provided with at least one sub-floor ventilator, wherein a sealant material such as a self-adherent pad is adhered to an external surface of said ventilator, forming a barrier against entry of water into said ventilator.

26. A building as claimed in claim 25, wherein the ventilator comprises at least one airbrick.

27. A building as claimed in claim 25 or 26, wherein the sealant material is adhered to said external surface including the periphery of the ventilator.

28. A building as claimed in any one of claims 25 to 27, wherein the sealant material is adhered to said external surface of the ventilator and to building material immediately surrounding the periphery of the ventilator.

29. A building as claimed in claim 28, wherein the building material comprises brickwork and/or mortar immediately adjacent the periphery of the ventilator.

30. A building as claimed in any one of claims 25 to 29, wherein the sealant material is as defined in any one of claims 6 to 20.

31. A building as claimed in any one of claims 25 to 30 substantially as herein described.

32. A building as claimed in any one of claims 25 to 30 substantially as herein exemplified.

33. Use of a laminated sealant material as illustrated herein in a building as claimed in any one of claims 25 to 32.